



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

Professor Christopher Parkes
Department of Physics & Astronomy
The University of Manchester
Schuster Building
Oxford Road
Manchester M13 9PL

17 December 2024

Statement of Interest Feedback

Dear Professor Parkes,

The Statement of Interest (Sol) for the proposal “Uncommon Sense: Detector Research & Development for particle, astro-particle and nuclear physics” (DRD) was considered by Science Board PPAN (SB PPAN) at its meeting on 20 November 2024. It requested £11.58m over five years, between April 2025 and March 2030.

SB PPAN was informed that the detector R&D for the next decade is focussed on providing the innovative technologies, infrastructure and staff skills that will enable a set of medium and smaller scale projects with more diverse aims and that will potentially lay the path for a major future collider project on the 20+ year horizon. The science goals of these future projects include the understanding of the Higgs boson; the search for new particles and forces from beyond the Standard Model; the exploration of flavour and fundamental symmetries in the quark and lepton sectors; the quest for dark matter; the understanding of the strong force and extreme states of matter.

SB PPAN is in the process of developing the PPAN Roadmap that will set the framework for future STFC investment. The Sol was considered in the context of the roadmap discussions, where investing in R&D has been highlighted as being essential for all our research communities. SB PPAN also noted the value of contributing to the DRD projects, building leadership and influence to position the UK to respond to the European Strategy and inform the forthcoming update.

However, the STFC’s funding position is currently very constrained and so it is not possible to invite a full proposal at this stage. SB PPAN would like to receive a revised option for detector R&D that is more focussed, at a significantly reduced cost and that starts later (no earlier than 2027). This option would be reviewed at a future Science Board meeting, along with the original Sol.

If you have any further questions, please contact Karen Clifford (karen.clifford@stfc.ukri.org) in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'G. A. Blair'.

Professor Grahame Blair
Executive Director, Programmes
Science and Technologies Facilities Council (STFC)